

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The Examiner maintains her request for Applicants to recite the steps of the SCORIM process and suggests that the steps be inserted into the specification.

The specification has been amended by inserting on page 10, before EXAMPLE 1, several new paragraphs describing the SCORIM process

Claim Rejections 35 USC 103(a)

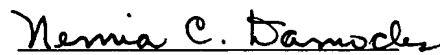
3. Claims 1 and 3-4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinnavia et al. (5,801,216). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

U.S. Patent 5,801,216 (Pinnavaia) does not teach or suggest a process for making a structural foamed polymer article comprising a nanocomposite polymer. What Pinnavaia teaches is a nanocomposite polymer which has not been formed into an article. Pinnavaia does not teach or suggest a process for making a structural foamed article by forming the nanocomposite polymer into an article by flowing the nanocomposite polymer to align the planes of the one, two, three, four and five layers of silicate material so that more than one half of the planes have the same orientation within thirty degrees as determined by electron microscopy, as required in Claim 1. The structural foamed polymer article is made by injection molding, as described in Example 2 of the present application. Pinnavaia does not disclose or suggest anything about injection molding the nanocomposite polymer to form an article.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 3-4 are patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Pinnavia et al. (5,801,216).

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 1, and 3-4 are patentable over Pinnavaia et al.

Respectfully submitted,



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